

Title IV-F: Project SERV

Project SERV funds education-related services for local education agencies (LEA) and institutions of higher education (IHE) to help them recover from a violent or traumatic event in which the learning environment has been disrupted.ⁱ

In Oregon, the LEA is usually the district, and in this document “district” is synonymous with LEA.

What is Project SERV?

Project SERV supplies federal grants to districts where the learning environment has been disrupted due to a violent or traumatic crisis. A crisis includes but is not limited to a shooting or other serious violent incidents, suicides of members of the learning community, or natural disasters such as hurricanes, flooding and wildfires.ⁱⁱ

Districts that have undergone a violent or traumatic crisis must [apply directly to the US Department of Education](#) for Project SERV funding.ⁱⁱⁱ

Who is responsible for providing Project SERV equitable services?

Under ESEA, equitable services must be offered to eligible private schools before the district makes any decision that affects the opportunities of eligible private school students and educators. First, districts should consult with private schools before applying for funds in order to include the private school’s needs. During consultation, the district must ascertain:^{iv}

- 1) Whether the learning environment in the private school was disrupted by the crisis; and
- 2) If the private school will accept Project SERV equitable services; and
- 3) The number of students at each private school whose learning was affected; and
- 4) An initial needs assessment and preliminary budget for equitable services.

If the district is awarded Project SERV funds, they must continue ongoing consultation with private schools that accepted Project SERV equitable services and have affected students. They also must calculate an equitable share based on the number and needs of affected students.

The district may choose to calculate the equitable share in different ways:^v

- 1) Calculating a per-pupil amount based on all eligible students, both private and public, if the impact and needs between all students are relatively the same; or
- 2) Weight the needs of the students differently depending on the degree to which the learning environment was disrupted by the crisis based the degree of direct experience.

How is the equitable share calculated?^{vi}

See [Module 3](#).

What are allowable activities for equitable services under Project SERV?

All activities must be reasonable and necessary to restore the learning environment. They may include, but are not limited to:^{vii}

- Costs related to ensuring the safety and security of children and teachers; and
- Mental health services; and
- Additional operating costs such as alternate transportation for children when regular transportation is disrupted due to a natural disaster.

It is unallowable to use Project SERV funds to pay for construction or the provision of medical services.^{viii}

For more information on general equitable service allowability and how to [evaluate](#) equitable service programs, see [Module 2](#).

ⁱ [Title VIII Equitable Services NRG](#) (2023), L-1, [ESEA](#) section 4631(a)(1)(A)

ⁱⁱ [Title VIII Equitable Services NRG](#) (2023), L-1, L-3, [ESEA](#) section 4631(a)(1)(A), (b)

ⁱⁱⁱ [Title VIII Equitable Services NRG](#) (2023), L-2, [ESEA](#) section 4631(c)

^{iv} [Title VIII Equitable Services NRG](#) (2023), L-6, [ESEA](#) section 8501(c)(3)

^v [Title VIII Equitable Services NRG](#) (2023), L-7, [ESEA](#) section 8501(a)(4)

^{vi} [Title VIII Equitable Services NRG](#) (2023), B-1

^{vii} [Title VIII Equitable Services NRG](#) (2023), L-4, [ESEA](#) section 4631(b)(1), [2 CFR § 200.403](#)

^{viii} [Title VIII Equitable Services NRG](#) (2023), L-4, [ESEA](#) section 4001(b), 4631(b)(4), 8526